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(b) whether they have decided to take any action in regard to this matter?

A.—(a) The Government have under consideration certain proposals for preparing a scheme for a Provincial Broadcasting service.

(b) No decision has yet been taken.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know, Sir, what proposals are under the consideration of the Government and by whom they have been made?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—" There are certain proposals already before the Government but before considering them it may be necessary to take expert advice. The whole question as to how best to settle the scheme is under consideration of Government. We are in communication with the Chief Engineer for Electricity on this matter, and we are going to see whether and on what terms we can get the services of an expert for six months or so, to give us expert advice as to the best line for proceeding with the scheme."

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—" Have the Government considered the desirability of getting advice from Bombay or Ceylon on this scheme of broadcasting? I understand that in Ceylon broadcasting is carried on by the Government very successfully."

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—" We have not considered that. We shall take note of the hon. Member's suggestion."

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—" Will the hon. Member also consider the desirability of appointing a small committee to go into the whole question in view of the importance of the matter?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—" The Government will also keep that suggestion in view. At present it is not under consideration."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" Are the Government aware that an association in England has been circulating literature on the subject saying that it is necessary to entertain the villagers in the rural parts of India and that they think of starting a provincial broadcasting station, if necessary?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—" I believe we have received some brochure or pamphlet on the subject."

Local Self-Government

Orders, if any, of Government on the recommendations made by the Special Officer appointed to examine the financial position of local bodies.

* 8 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Government have passed any orders in regard to the recommendations made by the Special Officer appointed to examine the financial position of local bodies?

A.—No. The recommendations of the Special Officer are under the consideration of the Government.

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Mr. A. B. Shetty:—" May I know whether, apart from the recommendations of the special officer, the Government have under consideration any proposals for stabilizing the finances of the local bodies? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" The Government have recently appointed a special staff to consider various alternative proposals but they have not advanced sufficiently far for me to place them before the House."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" May I know how long these recommendations have been under consideration? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" Apart from these recommendations, the Government have on their own initiative been considering other alternative proposals. As far as the recommendations are concerned, I think the only important proposal was the restoration of tolls on bullock carts. Other proposals of the special officer are mere palliatives and are not calculated to be of any permanent benefit to the local bodies."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" May I know when orders are likely to issue? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" As I have said, I do not think any orders are likely to be issued on the report of the special officer, but Government are considering other alternatives. I am afraid I cannot give any definite answer as to when final orders will issue."

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—" Is it not a fact that Government have issued a Government Order calling for the opinions of the district boards on the recommendations of the special officer? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" Yes, Sir."

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—" May I know what reports they have got from the districts on the subject? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" I must ask for notice."

Mr. Yakub Hasan:—" Will the hon. the Minister give us an idea of the alternative proposals before the Government? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" I have not got any definite proposals, Sir. Various alternatives are being examined as to whether it will be possible to introduce any measures to stabilize the financial position of local bodies."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" Are we to understand that in view of the fact that the Government is not going to issue any orders the labours of the special officer and the cost incurred by Government would be a waste? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" I do not think so."